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FRONTIER GUARDS IMPROVE DETECTION SKILLS

Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU 10 June 1965--A

(Interview with commander of the Frontier Guard Forces Brig. Gen. Eugeniusz Dostojewski)

(Summary) Question: what have been the changes in the system of border protection in the past 20 years?

Answer: The changes have been tremendous. We have gone over from primitive means of protection to the most modern technical equipment, from enormous soldierly toil to most highly rationalized efforts, and from a host of rigid administrative prohibitions and regulations to loose and flexible orders that are indispensable. At one time the primitive method of harrowing border strips was the basic auxiliary means of protection. Today we use radar and powerful telescopes along the entire length of the seaboard. In most sensitive spots we use infrared apparatus. Technological means are increasingly replacing human and animal effort.

Question: How have these changes affected the security of our borders?

Answer: The degree of the security of our borders is very high. For example, last year it amounted to 90 percent, that is, only 2 out of every 100 illegal border crossings had a chance of being undetected. This is a result of the high effectiveness of border troops and their equipment, as well as of the cooperation of the people living in the border areas.

Question: It is of great importance for the security of our borders that we are surrounded by friendly states, is it not?

Answer: Of course, We cooperate with all the neighboring border organs and we help one another. We carry out joint appraisals and analyses of the border situation. For example, four years ago we analyzed the border situation with our Soviet comrades. As a result, the local population acquired facilities for mutual visits of relatives on both sides of the border. There are many other forms of cooperation and mutual assistance.

Question: "And what about border crimes now? Have the social, economic, and political changes in our country exerted a tangible influence on the nature of border crimes?"

Answer: "There is no doubt that border events are in a way dependent on the situation and the internal conditions of the country. In the first few years after the war, when the situation in the country was unsettled, there was great 'traffic' along our borders. Between 1945 and 1948, when social reactionaries in the country and abroad showed great militancy, our border areas were constantly in danger from subversionists, individual fugitives, and even entire armed bands. Some 62 percent of all border crimes of the past 20 years were committed during the first four years after the war. After that, the wave of crime receded. If we assume that border crimes amounted to 100 in 1946, then they amounted to 7 cases in 1964. This represents a huge decrease.

"The decrease in the number of border crimes has gone hand in hand with changes in the nature of these crimes. In the first years after the war border crimes were above all political in character, while now such crimes are very rare.

Parallel to this, the American intelligence service, CIA, carries out its own actions. Attempts are being made to bribe the leaders of primitive national minorities, above all the Meos, in the territory controlled by the Pathet Lao. They try to find among the Thai minority candidates for subversive actions in the areas of the DRV inhabited by this minority.